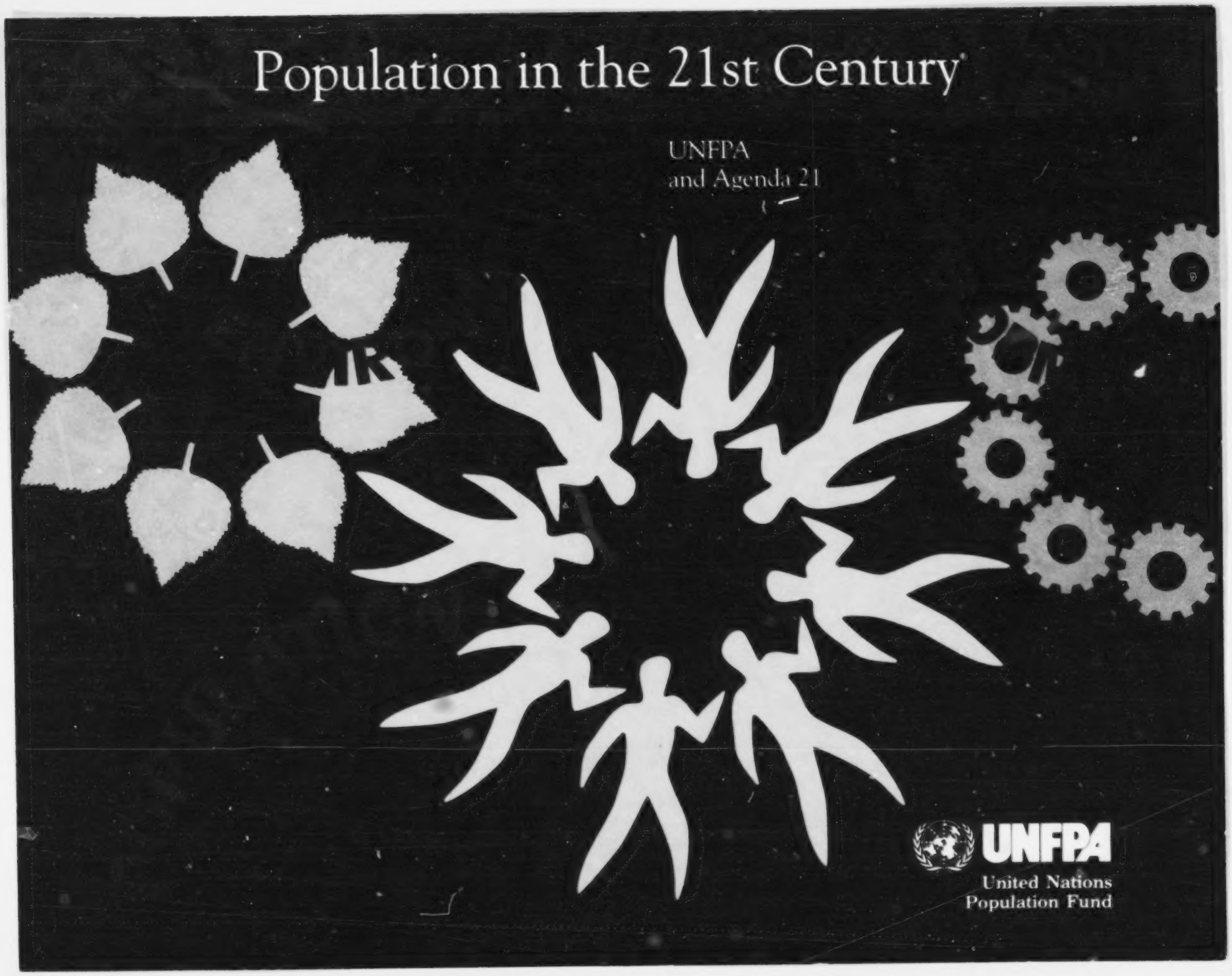
Population in the 21st Century

UNFPA
and Agenda 21



Contents

3 Introduction

4 Population and the Rio Declaration

4 Population and Agenda 21

4 Demographic dynamics and sustainability

11 Combatting poverty

11 Protecting and promoting human health

12 Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development

13 Children and youth in sustainable development

14 Strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations: partners for sustainable development

14 Promoting education, public awareness and training

15 National mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity-building in developing countries

15 International institutional arrangements

15 Financial resources and mechanisms

16 Conclusion

Figures

4 1 The Great Polluters - Options

5 2 Population projections to the year 2150 (high, medium and low scenarios)

5 3 Population projections to the year 2150 by region (medium variant)

11 4 Poverty in the developing world, 1985 and 2000

14 5 Size of child population in millions and percentage of children in total world population, 1950-2025

READEX
FICHE

Introduction

The inextricable link between population and the environment was recognized as far back as 1974 when the World Population Plan of Action (WPPA) adopted at the first World Population Conference in Bucharest included as one of its objectives: "To advance national and international understanding of the complex relations among the problems of population, resources, environment and development, and to promote a unified analytical approach to the study of these interrelationships and to relevant policies". The International Conference on Population held in 1984 reaffirmed the WPPA and was equally specific on the necessity for an "integrated approach that takes into account the interrelationship between population, resources, environment and development". In 1989, the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held in Amsterdam also acknowledged that "population, resources and environment are inextricably linked and stress our commitment to bringing about a sustainable relationship between human numbers, resources and development".

Most recently, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, marked a breakthrough in the discussion of population and environment issues. At the conference, a succession of world leaders, heads of agencies and eminent individuals stated their belief that population was one of the key issues in the fight for sustainable development. As Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Bruntland noted at the opening session, "poverty, environment and population can no longer be dealt with — or even thought of — as separate issues". This conviction was reflected in Agenda 21, the blueprint for action adopted by the Conference.

UNFPA responded to the UNCED process in three ways. First, the Fund actively participated in the process itself and contributed to the various UNCED preparatory committees and expert groups. The Fund also produced and distributed publications dealing with various aspects of the interrelationship between population and the environment. Second, following the conference, UNFPA began examining its activities to see how well they fit with the intentions and prescriptions of Agenda 21 and, correspondingly, what could be done to adapt those that did not. Third, the Fund continued to build upon the international understanding reached at Rio on the population and environment interrelationship in its preparations for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

As part of its follow-up to UNCED, UNFPA has identified those chapters and programme areas of Agenda 21 that have programmatic, institutional and/or financial implications for UNFPA, concentrating on those that are at or near the core of the Fund's concerns and mandate. This booklet is a synthesis of UNFPA policies and programme activities directly relevant to environmental concerns in the perspective of Agenda 21.

Figure 1 **The Great Polluters**

Industrialized countries do most damage to the environment...

- Industrialized countries account for 5/6 of world CFC use and 3/4 of fossil fuel use.
- The average person in the industrialized world adds 3.2 tonnes of carbon each year to the atmosphere — almost four times the level added by the average Third World resident.
- Pollution in the Katowice region of Poland has rendered inedible 90% of fruits and vegetables. In Hungary one in 17 people dies from pollution.

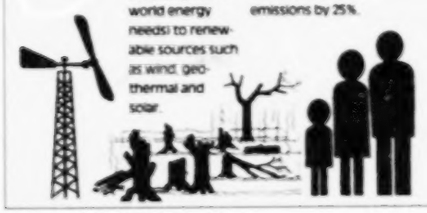
But developing countries are catching up...

- Annual carbon dioxide output from the destruction of forests, occurring mainly in the Third World, almost trebled between 1950 and 1980-85. And by 2025 developing countries will be emitting 16.6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide annually — three times their present level.
- Emissions from industrial sources in the Third World rose 16-fold between 1950 and 1980-85.
- The number of cars in the world is set to grow from 400 million today to 700 million over the next 20 years. Much of that growth will occur in the developing world which currently owns only 12% of the global car fleet.

Options

Keeping open the options for the future is only possible if we:

- Use energy more efficiently.
- Shift from fossil fuels (currently supplying 75% of world energy needs) to renewable sources such as wind, geothermal and solar.
- Halt deforestation and so cut carbon dioxide emissions by 25%.
- Slow down population growth.



Population and the Rio Declaration

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development is intended to be the first step towards adoption of the Earth Charter. Drafting the Charter is to be completed by 1995, when the United Nations celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. The Rio Declaration is best viewed as a broad and general introduction to Agenda 21, the conference's three-volume analysis of the global environment and development situation.

UNFPA's mandate, which focuses directly on people and their welfare, is well reflected in the first principle of the Rio Declaration, which states: "Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature."

This principle is reinforced by the fifth principle, which urges all States and all people to: "cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world."

To be able to do this and to achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all, Principle 8 declares that: "States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and *promote appropriate demographic policies*" (see Figure 1).

Population and Agenda 21

Due to the efforts of UNFPA and others, population as an issue of importance to the environment and development was put on the agenda of the UNCED preparatory process at the third Preparatory Committee meeting in August 1991.

From a population point of view, the key element of Agenda 21 is chapter 5, "Demographic dynamics and sustainability". The activities and objectives proposed in this chapter are in complete harmony with UNFPA's mandate. In addition, at least nine other chapters of Agenda 21 are at or near the core of UNFPA's concerns. These are, in order of appearance, Chapter 3, "Combatting poverty"; Chapter 6, "Protecting and promoting human health conditions"; Chapter 24, "Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development"; Chapter 25, "Children and youth in sustainable development"; Chapter 27, "Strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations: partners for sustainable development"; Chapter 33, "Financial resources and mechanisms"; Chapter 36, "Promoting education, public awareness and training"; Chapter 37, "National mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity-building in developing countries"; and Chapter 38, "International institutional arrangements."

In addition, there are a number of programme areas in other chapters that are relevant to UNFPA activities or to which UNFPA activities may contribute. The following pages briefly summarize the major provisions of these chapters.

Demographic dynamics and sustainability (Chapter 5)

World population, 5.5 billion in 1992, will, according to the United Nations medium projection, reach 8.5 billion in 2025 and 10 billion in 2050 (see Figure 2). Over the next decade, more than half the population growth will be in Africa and South Asia where land degradation potential is most severe (see Figure 3).

UNFPA is charged with extending sustained assistance to developing countries, at their request, in dealing with their population problems. Today, UNFPA supports programmes, policies and activities in some 140 countries and operates extensive programmes in 58 priority countries, 32 of which are in Africa.

Chapter 5 of Agenda 21 is a true successor to the Bucharest and Mexico City recommendations and plans of action. All the actions and policies recommended in Chapter 5 aim at the integration of demographic trends and population factors into all aspects of sustainable development planning and environmental protection.

Thus, in the span of not quite 20 years, three major international conferences have called for concerted action on population, the environment and development, pointing to the continuing nature of the task. The following numbered paragraphs are highlights from three programme areas comprising 65 paragraphs in Chapter 5 :

•(A) "Formulating integrated national policies for environment and development, taking into account demographic trends and factors;

In this programme area, UNFPA in collaboration with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) is undertaking a major research and policy analysis project entitled, "Population and Sustainable Development: Mauritius". This project attempts to measure the interdependence between the size and structure of populations, their socio-economic and technological development, and their physical environment. Case studies of this nature could be used to build a comprehensive model that leads towards a better understanding of the population and environment link, development of appropriate methodologies to assess such links and formulation of policies to remedy undesirable interactions.

•(B) "Developing and disseminating knowledge concerning the links between demographic trends and factors and sustainable development;

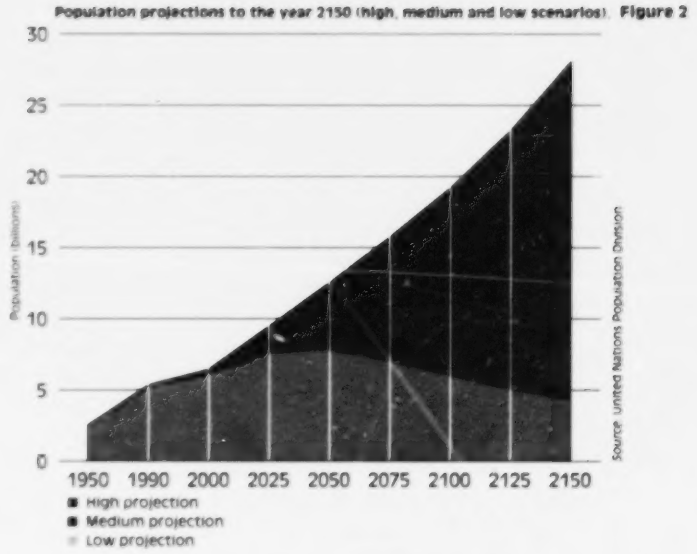
As part of its effort to ensure the integration of the population-resource balance in sectoral planning, UNFPA sponsored a guidebook on population, resources and environment in collaboration with the World Conservation Union (IUCN). This guidebook, which is available in English, French and Spanish, is used by planning officials in national planning ministries, and for awareness-creation at workshops and seminars.

•(C) "Implementing integrated environment and development programmes at the local level, taking into account demographic trends and factors."

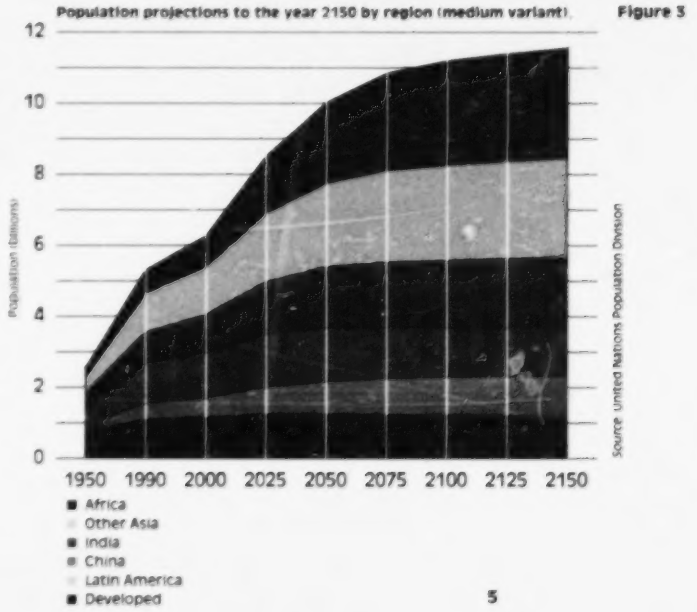
In Vietnam, UNFPA and the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP) implemented an integrated project on Environmental Sanitation (ES), Intestinal Parasite Control (IPC), and Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning (MCH/FP) for Family Health designed to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate while reducing the parasite infestation rate. This project strengthened the MCH/FP/ES delivery system through the integrated approach by conducting training of project personnel, developing simple and effective monitoring systems, and developing and supplying the appropriate information, education and communication strategy and materials.

In one of the sections of Agenda 21 called "Basis for action", the first programme area starts by defining the problem in two paragraphs reproduced here in their entirety:

Population projections to the year 2150 (high, medium and low scenarios). Figure 2



Population projections to the year 2150 by region (medium variant). Figure 3



"5.2. Demographic trends and factors and sustainable development have a synergistic relationship.
"5.3. The growth of world population and production combined with unsustainable consumption patterns places increasingly severe stress on the life-supporting capacities of our planet. These interactive processes affect the use of land, water, air, energy and other resources. Rapidly growing cities, unless well managed, face major environmental problems. The increase in both the number and size of cities calls for greater attention to issues of local government and municipal management. The human dimensions are key elements to consider in this intricate set of relationships and they should be adequately taken into consideration in comprehensive policies for sustainable development. Such policies should address the linkages of demographic trends and factors, resource use, appropriate technology dissemination, and development. Population policy should also recognize the role played by human beings in environmental and development concerns. There is a need to increase awareness of this issue among decision makers at all levels and to provide both better information on which to base national and international policies and a framework against which to interpret this information.
"5.4. There is a need to develop strategies to mitigate both the adverse impact on the environment of human activities and the adverse impact of environmental change on human populations."

The following are the major objectives:

"(a) To incorporate demographic trends and factors in the global analysis of environment and development issues;

"(b) To develop a better understanding of the relationships among demographic dynamics, technology, cultural behaviour, natural resources and life support systems;

"(c) To assess human vulnerability in ecologically sensitive areas and centres of population to determine the priorities for action at all levels, taking full account of community defined needs."

To reach these objectives the chapter proposes certain activities, as follows:

"5.6. Relevant international, regional and national institutions should consider undertaking the following activities:
"(a) Identifying the interactions between demographic processes, natural resources and life support systems, bearing in mind regional and sub-regional variations deriving from, inter alia, different levels of development;
"(b) Integrating demographic trends and factors into the ongoing study of environmental change, using the expertise of international, regional and national research networks and of local communities, first, to study the human dimensions of environmental change and, second, to identify vulnerable areas;
"(c) Identifying priority areas for action and developing strategies and programmes to mitigate the adverse impact of environmental change on human populations, and vice versa."

The programme area ends by suggesting a number of measures to be undertaken in the field of research, information, awareness creation, and institutional and collaborative capacity-building.

Since its inception, UNFPA has been dealing with the concerns and priorities of this programme area. As early as 1973, the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1763 (LIV), included among the aims and purposes of UNFPA the promotion of "awareness, both in developed and in developing countries, of the social, economic and environmental implications of national and international population problems ...". Following the 1977 International Conference on Desertification hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNFPA funded a number of UNEP-administered posts in environmental matters. Later, in the early 1980s, UNFPA commissioned the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) to produce a major report on the "carrying capacity" of agricultural land in the developing world.

Support for family planning and maternal and child health care is an important UNFPA activity. Yet, neither family planning nor maternal and child health care can be pursued successfully without due attention to environmental conditions such as sanitation and clean water. UNFPA has placed much emphasis in its programmes on creating awareness about the links between population and environment as an important component of education in reproductive health. In response to the UNCED recommendations, UNFPA, the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the World Conservation Union produces a joint publication entitled "People and the Planet" which is published quarterly to reach a greatly expanded audience.

To traditional activities in the field of population and environment, UNFPA has added and gradually expanded a programme of research and policy analysis. The aims of the programme are to investigate further the complex relationships

between population and environment and to integrate the findings into appropriate planning methodologies and implementation structures.

The second programme area of Chapter 5 shifts the emphasis to Governments and what they should do. The "Basis for action" describes how the problem is perceived.

"5.16. Existing plans for sustainable development have generally recognized demographic trends and factors as elements that have a critical influence on consumption patterns, production, lifestyles and long-term sustainability. ... [In future,] all countries will have to improve their own capacities to assess the environment and development implications of their demographic trends and factors. ... Policies should be designed to address the consequences of population growth ... while at the same time incorporating measures to bring about demographic transition. They should combine environmental concerns and population issues within a holistic view of development whose primary goals include the alleviation of poverty; secure livelihoods; good health; quality of life; improvement of the status and income of women and their access to schooling and professional training, as well as fulfilment of their personal aspirations; and empowerment of individuals and communities. Recognizing that large increases in the size and number of cities will occur in developing countries ..., attention should be given to preparing for the needs, in particular of women and children, for improved municipal management and local government."

This description of the problem leads to the following objective:

"5.17. Full integration of population concerns into national planning, policy and decision-making processes should continue. Population policies and programmes should be considered, with full recognition of women's rights."

Even though Governments will have to shoulder the main responsibility for the proposed activities in this programme area, there is much that UNFPA has already done and can do to support Governments. A priority for UNFPA is to incorporate environmental concerns in the population and development strategies of its country programmes and to look at the environmental impacts of its own country programmes. For example, the recently introduced PRSD exercises seek to introduce a strategic approach to population programming by developing a conceptual and programmatic framework to guide population activities in a country. The framework will help developing countries to coordinate activities between sectors, among implementing agencies and between donors, as well as to achieve synergistic impact from implementing population and related development activities in individual countries. By the end of 1992, a total of 59 PRSD exercises had been undertaken to assist countries in integrating population and environment concerns into development planning.

The "Basis for action" then continues with a series of appropriate activities that fall within the areas of UNFPA's mandate:

"5.18. Governments and other relevant actors could, inter alia, undertake the following activities, with appropriate assistance from aid agencies, and report on their status of implementation to the International Conference on Population and Development to

be held in 1994, especially to its committee on population and environment.

"5.20. Research should be conducted on how environmental factors interact with socio-economic factors as a cause of migration.

"5.21. Vulnerable population groups (such as rural landless workers, ethnic minorities, refugees, migrants, displaced people, women heads of household) whose changes in demographic structure may have specific impacts on sustainable development should be identified.

"5.22. An assessment should be made of the implications of the age structure of the population on resource demand and dependency burdens, ranging from educational expenses for the young to health care and support for the elderly, and on household income generation.

"5.24. The impact of national demographic trends and factors on the traditional livelihoods of indigenous groups and local communities, including changes in traditional land use because of internal population pressures, should be studied.

"5.25. National databases on demographic trends and factors and environment should be built and/or strengthened, disaggregating data by ecological region (ecosystem approach), and population/environment profiles should be established by region.

"5.26. Methodologies and instruments should be developed to identify areas where sustainability is, or may be, threatened by the environmental effects of demographic trends and factors, incorporating both current and projected demographic data linked to natural environmental processes.

"5.27. Case-studies of local level responses by different groups to demographic dynamics should be developed, particularly in areas subject to environmental stress and in deteriorating urban centres.

"5.30. The direct and induced effects of demographic changes on environment and development programmes should, where appropriate, be integrated, and the impact on demographic features assessed.
"5.31. National population policy goals and programmes that are consistent with national environment and development plans for sustainability and in keeping with the freedom, dignity and personally held values of individuals should be established and implemented.
"5.34. Demographic concerns, including concerns for environmental migrants and displaced people, should be incorporated in the programmes for sustainable development of relevant international and regional institutions."

The third programme area is, in the main, devoted to the implementation of policies at various levels of government. The "Basis for action" has this to say:

"5.42. Population programmes are more effective when implemented together with appropriate cross-sectoral policies. To attain sustainability at the local level, a new framework is needed that integrates demographic trends and factors with such factors as ecosystem health, technology and human settlements, and with socio-economic structures and access to resources. Population programmes should be consistent with socio-economic and environmental planning. Integrated sustainable development programmes should closely correlate action on demographic trends and factors with resource management activities and development goals that meet the needs of the people concerned."

From this flows the following objective:

"5.43. Population programmes should be implemented along with natural resource management and development programmes at the local level that will ensure sustainable use of natural resources, improve the quality of life of the people and enhance environmental quality."

The recommended activities to be undertaken by Governments are numerous and include the following:

"5.44. Governments and local communities, including community-based women's organizations and national non-governmental organizations, consistent with national plans, objectives, strategies and priorities, could, inter alia, undertake the activities set out below with the assistance and cooperation of international organizations, as appropriate. Governments could share their experience in the implementation of Agenda 21 at the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in 1994, especially its committee on population and environment.

"(a) Developing a framework for action

"5.45. An effective consultative process should be established and implemented with concerned groups of society where the formulation and decision-making of all components of the programmes are based on a nationwide consultative process drawing on community meetings, regional workshops and national seminars, as appropriate. ... The poor and underprivileged should be priority groups in this process.
"5.46. Nationally determined policies for integrated and multifaceted programmes, with special attention to women, to the poorest people living in critical areas and to other vulnerable groups should be implemented.

"5.48. Special attention should be given to the critical role of women in population/environment programmes and in achieving sustainable development.

"(b) Supporting programmes that promote changes in demographic trends and factors towards sustainability

"5.49. Reproductive health programmes and services should, as appropriate, be developed and enhanced to reduce maternal and infant mortality from all causes and enable women and men to fulfil their personal aspirations in terms of family size, in a way in keeping with their freedom and dignity and personally held values.
"5.50. Governments should take active steps to implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions and legal systems, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children, to have access to the information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values taking into account ethical and cultural considerations.
"5.51. Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities that include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values and taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four

months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness.

"5.52. Consistent with national priorities, culturally based information and education programmes that transmit reproductive health messages to men and women that are easily understood should be developed.

"(c) Creating appropriate institutional conditions

"5.53. Constituencies and institutional conditions to facilitate the implementation of demographic activities should, as appropriate, be fostered. This requires support and commitment from political, indigenous, religious and traditional authorities, the private sector and the national scientific community. In developing these appropriate institutional conditions, countries should closely involve established national machinery for women.

"5.54. Population assistance should be coordinated with bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure that population needs and requirements of all developing countries are addressed, fully respecting the overall coordinating responsibility and the choice and strategies of the recipient countries.

"5.55. Coordination should be improved at local and international levels. ... UNFPA and other relevant agencies should strengthen the coordination of international cooperation activities with recipient and donor countries in order to ensure that adequate funding is available to respond to growing needs.

UNFPA contributes to the implementation of this ambitious programme in a variety of ways, through direct programme assistance to Govern-

ments that act as executing agencies and through support for programmes implemented by other agencies of the United Nations system as well as by non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Combatting poverty (Chapter 3)

Chapter 3 of Agenda 21 provides the framework for a comprehensive attack on poverty. It recognizes poverty as a complex multidimensional problem, the resolution of which requires a specific anti-poverty strategy—itself a basic condition for ensuring sustainable development. It urges, inter alia, action to:

- Empower community and local groups;
- Provide basic education and primary and maternal health care; and
- Advance the status of women through their full participation in decision-making. It calls on Governments and the United Nations system to make poverty alleviation a priority task.

More than one billion people, or about one fifth of the world's population, live under conditions of extreme poverty, and the eradication of poverty has long been on the international agenda. This task, however, is not made easier by the fact that population growth is fastest among the poorest and in the poorest countries (see Figure 4). A more ambitious and aggressive pursuit of the eradication of poverty has become even more necessary with the realization, in recent years, that poverty is among the most significant contributing factors to environmental degradation.

UNFPA already supports a variety of projects and programmes with a direct bearing on poverty. These include maternal and child health and family planning programmes, which are typically targeted at rural inhabitants, the urban poor, women and youth because these groups are disproportionately affected by poverty. In research, the Fund supports a number of programmes and initiatives aimed at improving understanding of the relationship between poverty, population pressure and environmental degradation.

Protecting and promoting human health (Chapter 6)

Chapter 6 of Agenda 21 focuses on the extremely important issue of health, and especially on the need for primary health care. It urges also that greater emphasis be put on prevention programmes. To reach the overall objectives five programme areas are identified and are quoted in their entirety:

(a) Meeting primary health care needs, particularly in rural areas;

(b) Control of communicable diseases;

(c) Protecting vulnerable groups;

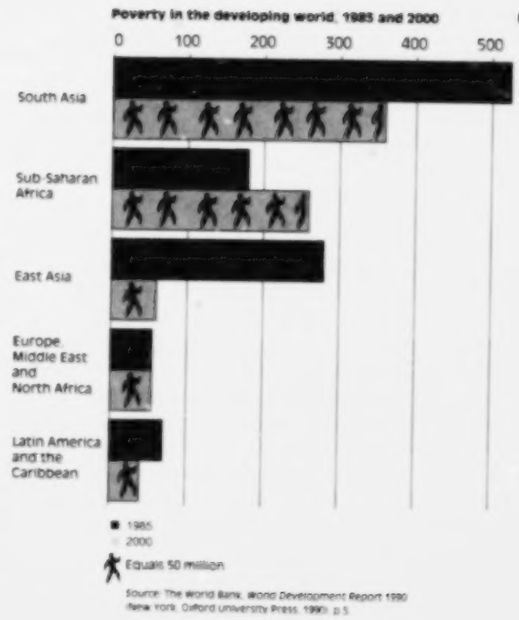
(d) Meeting the urban health challenge;

(e) Reducing health risks from environmental pollution and hazards.

The magnitude of the tasks in each programme area can be overcome only through collaboration among countries, both developed and developing, and public and private international organizations.

A population in good health is at the core of all development efforts and family planning programmes. Between 1969 and 1991, the Fund allocated $972 million or 46 per cent of total assistance to family planning, and in 1992, it devoted almost 50 per cent of its total programme allocations to family planning. Measures aimed at improving maternal and child health are integrated into family planning

Poverty in the developing world, 1985 and 2000 **Figure 4**



Source: The World Bank, *World Development Report 1990* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1990), p.5.

programmes, and vice versa. The Fund has also set in motion a number of activities aimed at preventing acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). A major portion of UNFPA programme assistance goes to the World Health Organization (WHO), with which UNFPA has collaborated closely from the very beginning. It has also collaborated with a number of other United Nations agencies and organizations, notably UNICEF, in the field of reproductive health, MCH/FP. The Fund has also worked with NGOs that have activities in the field of health, women, population and development.

Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development (Chapter 24)

Chapter 24 of Agenda 21 urges Governments to adopt a variety of objectives and initiate numerous activities aimed at integrating women fully and equally in all development activities. Among the objectives listed in the chapter are the following:

- "To increase the proportion of women decision makers, planners, technical advisers, managers and extension workers in environment and development fields";
- "To consider developing and issuing by the year 2000 a strategy of changes necessary to eliminate constitutional, legal, administrative, cultural, behavioural, social and economic obstacles to women's full participation in sustainable development and in public life";
- "To formulate and implement clear governmental policies and national guidelines, strategies and plans for the achievement of equality in all aspects of society, including the promotion of women's literacy, education, training, nutrition and health and their participation in key decision-making positions and in management of the environment ..."
- "To implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and have access to information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values."

To achieve these and other objectives, Governments are urged to undertake a number of activities, such as:

- Reviewing policies and establishing plans to increase the proportion of women involved in all sustainable development activities;
- Increasing the enrolment and the educational standards of females;
- Instituting plans to lessen the heavy workload of women and girl children at home and outside through the provision of more and affordable kindergartens;
- Supporting and strengthening equal employment opportunities and equitable remuneration; and
- Introducing measures to enhance the economic opportunities of women.

The United Nations system, in particular, is asked to do its utmost to strengthen its programmes by incorporating the role of women. It is also called upon to improve opportunities for the advancement of women in the United Nations system itself.

Ever since it first became operational in 1969, UNFPA has been concerned with the health and status of women. A special four-year strategy for strengthening the Fund's capacity for dealing with issues concerning women, population and development was initiated in 1987, and later extended to cover the period to 1994.

Apart from enhancing its own capability to deal with women and development issues, the Fund has embarked on extensive cooperation with other agencies. Concern for the health and status of women is also integral to UNFPA-supported country and intercountry programmes.

The Fund continues to strengthen links with NGOs and has supported a variety of activities on women, population and environment, including sponsorship of a workshop on this subject during UNCED. This workshop enabled women from NGOs in developing countries to participate more fully in the activities of the Conference. Most recently, the Fund supported a conference on women and health in Mexico. An example of a country-level activity is a family welfare project in India that is being implemented by the Working Women's Forum in urban marginal areas of Madras and rural areas of Tamil Nadu.

In the area of research, UNFPA-supported projects are being implemented in Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico and Morocco to study the impact of environmental changes on women's health and time use. This research, which is being conducted by local institutions, also indicates that there is a dearth of knowledge at the micro-level about the interactions between women, population and the environment. The findings of these projects should make a significant contribution to filling this void.

Children and youth in sustainable development (Chapter 25)

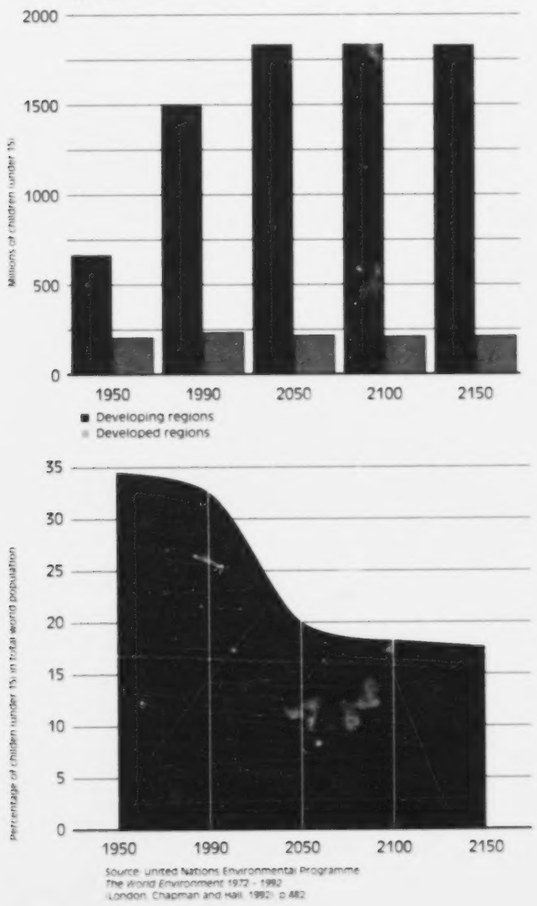
The objectives set forth in Chapter 25 include the following:

- Promoting dialogue between the youth community and Government at all levels;
- Ensuring access to secondary education;
- Reducing current levels of youth unemployment;
- Promoting the involvement of youth representation in United Nations processes; and
- Combatting human rights abuses against young people.

To reach these objectives, Governments are urged to take appropriate measures so that youth from "all parts of the world [can] participate actively in ... decision-making... In addition to their intellectual contribution and their ability to mobilize support, they bring unique perspectives that need to be taken into account."

The children and youth of today are tomorrow's parents. A population policy that does not seek to prepare children and especially youth for the responsibilities and implications of adulthood and parenthood is unlikely to be successful. UNFPA has, therefore, sought to increase awareness among government officials of the importance of formulating national policies concerning the reproductive health of youth and of allocating resources accordingly. To this end, UNFPA distributed a Programme Advisory Note on Youth to UNFPA staff, government officials and national and international NGOs active in the area of youth recommending greater attention to meeting young people's reproductive health needs and services and to facilitate their participation in population and development programmes. It further

Figure 5 **(Upper graph) size of child population in millions and (lower graph) percentage of children (persons under age 15) in total world prpolation, 1950-2025**



Source: United Nations Environmental Programme, *The World Environment 1972 - 1992* (London, Chapman and Hall, 1992), p. 482.

stressed the importance of developing comprehensive national strategies on youth, population and development. The Fund has supported a variety of youth-related activities at the country level, for example, studies of attitudes and practices regarding adolescent sexuality. Peer education and youth-to-youth counselling on adolescent reproductive health has met with considerable success in several countries. For example, a youth-to-youth reproductive health and family planning information, education and counselling activity in Sierra Leone became self-sustaining during 1992. UNFPA also supported several interregional youth activities. Environmental preservation and sustainable development are closely linked to the security and health of youth.

Chapter 25 of Agenda 21 focuses precisely on these questions. The point is made that, today, youth i.e. those between the ages of 10 to 24, constitute about 28 per cent of the world's population and an even higher percentage of the developing world's population (see Figure 5). It is easy to see from these numbers how important the involvement of youth in environmental and developmental decision-making is to the long-term success of Agenda 21.

Strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations: partners for sustainable development (Chapter 27)

Chapter 27 recognizes NGOs as partners in the implementation of Agenda 21. Indeed, without their participation, it is difficult to see how the objectives of Agenda 21 could be reached at all. To that end, Governments and international organizations are asked to accommodate NGOs and develop mechanisms that will allow them to play a partnership role. NGOs should not only participate in the implementation of Agenda 21 but also play a part among the institutions charged with reviewing and evaluating the implementation. NGOs will participate in large numbers in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

Throughout its existence, UNFPA has collaborated closely with a variety of NGOs which have served as executing agencies for UNFPA-funded activities all over the world. In 1991, for example, NGOs were the third largest recipients of UNFPA assistance. Organizations that have received UNFPA support include, inter alia, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, the World Conservation Union, The Population Council, and numerous universities and research institutes in both developed and developing countries.

Promoting education, public awareness and training (Chapter 36)

UNFPA recognized long ago the importance of creating awareness of the critical issues of population, environment and resources and has sought to do so through publications, sponsorship of and participation in conferences and symposia, and support for certain activities of specialized organizations. UNFPA's 1988 The State of World Population Report, "Safeguarding the Future", for example, focused on the connected themes of population, environment and resources. This report gave rise to symposia in various countries, some of which were sponsored by UNFPA.

The cultivation of greater awareness of the issues involved is also carried out through other publications such as UNFPA's quarterly journal Populi.

UNFPA's Global Programme of Training in Population and Development, undertaken in conjunction with institutions of learning in four countries, has increasingly integrated environmental concerns into its curricula.

National mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity-building in developing countries (Chapter 37)

Chapter 37 of Agenda 21 focuses on the capacity-building needs of the developing countries, addressing such issues as lack of skills, deficient institutional capacities and capabilities, and the technological and scientific requirements and resources needed to "enhance environmental knowledge and administration to integrate environment and development." The United Nations system and developed countries are asked to provide technical cooperation to help fill these needs and gaps.

Skills and know-how are as important as technology and other factors to the promotion of developmental and environmental sustainability, and support for various kinds of capacity-building measures has long been part of UNFPA country programmes. Such measures range from the integration of population education programmes in the formal school system to support for the incorporation of family life education in the educational programmes of national cooperatives, workers' unions and adult literacy courses. Other measures include the provision, through the country programmes, for graduate and postgraduate scholarships and fellowships; the strengthening of national institutions' technical capabilities in the field of demography and population studies; and the provision of international courses for training in population and development.

International institutional arrangements (Chapter 38)

Chapter 38 provides for the establishment of a Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which will have the task of monitoring and reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21. Like other members of the United Nations system, UNFPA will contribute to the work of, and report to, the CSD on its role in the implementation of Agenda 21.

Financial resources and mechanisms (Chapter 33)

A programme as ambitious as Agenda 21 requires much in the way of financial resources. The UNCED Secretariat estimated that the implementation of Agenda 21 in the developing countries would require in excess of $600 billion per annum, of which some $125 billion would have to come from the developed countries on grant or concessional terms. This implies that the countries that are members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) would have to more than double their present official development assistance (ODA). Although some developed country donors that had pledged to reach the target for ODA of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) reaffirmed their pledge in Rio, not all were willing to set a date for its fulfilment. Others set the year 2000 as the target date. Still others have already reached and surpassed the target.

It is estimated that, at present, some $4.5 billion is devoted to population activities in the developing countries, of which about 80 per cent is provided by the developing countries themselves. To be able to live up to the intentions of Agenda 21, support for population activities should, according to the Amsterdam Declaration of 1989, reach $9 billion a year by the turn of the century. The $9 billion is the minimum annual cost for core population activities required to extend modern family planning services to at least 567 million couples, or 59 per cent of married women of reproductive age (MWRA), in the developing world by the end of this decade. To reach the Amsterdam funding goal will require, on an annual basis by the year 2000, $4 billion in grants from donor country governments of which an estimated $1.1 billion would be channelled through UNFPA; $0.5 billion in grants from NGOs; and $0.5 billion in loans from development banks. Developing country governments need to provide $3.5 billion annually by the year 2000, with an additional $0.5 billion coming from users in developing countries.

An immediate target must be to persuade donors in the developed world to devote to population activities a higher portion of their official development assistance, which, at present, barely exceeds 1 per cent. Much effort will be needed to reach both immediate and longer term targets. An all-important signpost will be the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

Conclusion

Since the Fund's limited resources need to be utilized in support of action programmes within UNFPA's mandate, it will not be possible to support the implementation of action programmes aimed at producing non-polluting technologies, decentralizing congested urban areas, reforestation and resettlement programmes, water purification, more balanced habitats etc. Though it is important to understand how these particular issues interact with population variables, growth and distribution to affect environments, actions to resolve them per se will be contingent on financial and technical assistance by agencies and organizations more directly concerned with them.

Therefore, UNFPA assistance in the area of population and environment will focus on research and analysis, including country case studies; awareness-creation and sensitization; integrated MCH/FP in environmental management projects; special women's projects; population policy formulation and planning; and training. In providing such assistance, however, emphasis will be placed on inter-agency cooperation and joint programming ventures. This is important because links between population and environment are complex, multi-disciplinary, and transcend sectoral concerns of governments and their development partners. Appropriate avenues for such ventures, for example, include the agencies of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP), comprising UNDP, UNICEF, IFAD, WFP and UNFPA, as well as international and national non-governmental agencies such as the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

References

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, "Adoption of agreements on environment and development, Agenda 21", A/Conf. 151/4, 22 April 1992.

United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs,"Long-range World Population Projections — Two Centuries of Population Growth: 1950-2150", Sales No. E.92.XIII.3, New York, 1992.

United Nations Population Fund, "Global Population Assistance Report 1982-1990, ISBN: 0-89714-114-8, New York, 1992.

United Nations Population Fund, "Report of the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, ISBN-0-89714072-9, 1989.

United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, "Review and Appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action", Sales No. E. 79.XIII.7, New York, 1979.

Photo Credits

P. 2 United Nations/123525/Wolff
P. 7 United Nations/153866/Sudhakaran
P. 8 United Nations/159516/Scheider
P. 10 United Nations/133139/Nagata
P. 13 United Nations/137099/Mangurian
P. 16 United Nations/122637/Witlin

ISBN No. 0-89714-183-0
Designed by Kelleher & Tait Design Group
Printed by Remiltho, USA
Printed on recycled paper

UNFPA
United Nations
Population Fund
220 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

E/S.XX/1993